

21 March, 2001

RAJYA SABHA

by rotation in Delhi during peak periods depending upon day to day availability.

Power shortage in Delhi is attributable to the following:

- (i) No capacity addition in Delhi during past several years;
- (ii) Shortage of peaking capacity;
- (iii) Transmission and Distribution bottlenecks within DVB system;
- (iv) Low voltage;
- (v) Low frequency in Northern Grid; and
- (vi) Low generation at DVB's power stations.

(d) Enhanced allocation from unallocated quota of the central sector stations in the Northern Region to Delhi, preventive maintenance of transmission lines and thermal units including Badarpur Thermal Power Station of which the entire output is made available to Delhi, bilateral arrangements for supply of power from Himachal Pradesh to Delhi, assistance from Eastern Region after completion of termination work of Biharshariff-Allahabad 400 KV D/C line at Sarnath by April, 2001, etc. are some of the steps being taken to meet the demand of power in Delhi during the coming summer months of 2001.

Comprehensive power policy for power projects

[†]2821. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive power policy for power projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether providing single window approval to the power projects will also be considered in it; and
- (d) the details in this regard?

[†] Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken several initiatives in the power sector and the major policy measures which have been introduced in the recent past include the following:—

- (i) Revised mega power policy introduced in 1998 to incentivise setting up of large scale inter-State thermal and hydel projects.
- (ii) New Hydel policy introduced in 1998 for speedy development of hydro electric potential.
- (iii) Enactment of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 for fixation of tariff by Independent Regulatory Commissions in the Centre and States.
- (iv) Enactment of the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 to permit private investment in transmission.
- (v) Introduction of Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), in the year 2000-01 to facilitate Renovation and Modernisation programmes and also for strengthening of Transmission and Distribution systems.
- (vi) Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Governments to accelerated the pace of reforms in the power sector etc.

Apart from the above, the policy issues related to the power sector are periodically discussed with the State Governments under the aegis of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conferences. The last such Conference was held in March, 2001 wherein it was resolved:—

- * To treat Rural Electrification as a Basic Minimum Service under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana and to complete rural electrification by year 2007.
- * To conduct energy audit at all 11 KV feeders within next 6 months and also to fix accountability at the local level.
- * To undertake full metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- * To ensure commercial viability in distribution in next 2 to 3 years.
- * To make the State Electricity Regulatory Commission functional in the next six months.

- * To enhance PLF of existing plants through Renovation and Modernisation.
- * To devise an effective programme in the field of demand side management through energy efficient bulbs, tube lights and agricultural pumpsets etc.

(c) and (d) The provision of single window clearance for power projects has been examined in the Government and not found feasible due to involvement of several statutory agencies in project clearances. The Government have decentralized some of the clearance procedures to the extent feasible in the matter of environment clearance, CEA clearance and approval of foreign direct investment. A High Powered Board under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary and comprising of Secretaries of the concerned Ministries, Chairman in Central Electricity Authority and Chief Secretaries of concerned States Government was constituted in 1991 which serves as a single point forum for faster clearance of the IPP proposals. The Ministry of Power has also constituted the Crisis Resolution Group under the Chairmanship of Ministry of Power to resolve 'last mile' problems of the Independent Power Producers. Apart from this, the Government is monitoring the ongoing projects through various Task Forces set up in the Ministry and through the Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power).

Group of Ministers to review the existing schemes of electrification of tribal villages

2822. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Group of Ministers to review the existing schemes relating to electrification of tribal villages, dalit bastis and benefiting the other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification so that they can enjoy the benefit of electrification to the same extent as other areas/sections of the population;

(b) if so, the recommendations of Group of Ministers; and